NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

No. 144 | Washington, D. C. | January 2, 1926

CONTENTS

	Page
Record-breaking attendance expected at Convention	133
Market in Mexico for foodstuffs	133
Government tests of seed peas	134
Labels for "Vegetable Salad"	134
Slack-filling bill	134
Agricultural department's final estimates on 1925 canning crops	135
Queensland state cannery abandons export market	136
Control of raspberry disease	136
Seed inspection and certification for export	136
Bulletin of interest to vegetable growers	136
Condition of wholesale trade	136
Argentine packing and labeling regulations postponed	137
Canned food exports in November	137
New freight ratings proposed in official classification territory	138

Record-Breaking Attendance Expected at Convention

Hotel reservations for the Louisville Convention indicate that there will be a record-breaking attendance. Thus far, all of the Association's members who have requested reservations have been taken care of in accordance with their wishes. A fine spirit of cooperation has been shown by members in their willingness to "double up" in order that the demand for rooms might be met.

It has been arranged that the hotels will confirm reservations direct to those for whom they are made. If members who have requested reservations have not received confirmation of them from the hotels, it is suggested that they communicate with this office at once.

While there is no reason to anticipate any confusion regarding the reservations, it is suggested that members bring the hotel confirmations of their reservations with them to the Convention, so that if any questions should arise they may be the more easily adjusted.

Members who desire reservations and who have not yet requested them should wire this office immediately, and we will do the best possible for them at this late date.

Market in Mexico for Foodstuffs

The Mexican market for United States foodstuffs is analyzed in Trade Information Bulletin 380 of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, a pamphlet of 28 pages. A section of the bulletin is devoted to canned foods, exports of which to Mexico in 1924 were valued at $1,420,000. Canned sardines and salmon are the principal items in the trade, canned milk being next in importance.

Government Tests of Seed Peas

The result of tests of seed peas made by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture during the past year are summarized in the annual report of the Chief of that Bureau.

"Because of the importance of the Alaska variety of pea in the canning industry," the report states, "tests were made of many lots of seed purporting to be of this variety obtained from different retail seedsmen. In the current season 203 samples of the Alaska pea were planted at Arlington Experiment Farm. A study of these as they developed revealed the fact that in the collection different lots varied all the way from pure Alaska peas with no mixtures to those which contained not a single plant of the Alaska variety. Some stocks consisted of wrinkled table peas. The disastrous results which would follow the planting of such spurious or misnamed lots of seed if grown for canning purposes at once become evident. The Alaska is grown very largely for canning because of certain peculiar characteristics which it possesses. Most other varieties, and particularly the wrinkled table peas, have these characteristics so slightly or not at all that they would be of practically no value from the standpoint of the commercial canner.

"During the season of 1924 more than 400 varieties and strains of peas were planted in a trial plot located at McMillan, Mich., to secure as full and comprehensive notes on the pea varieties in cultivation as possible. This work is continued during the current season and includes several hundred newly purchased samples of pea seed from foreign sources. In the selection work special attention is being given to the Alaska variety, with a view to segregating particularly promising strains or types."

Labels for "Vegetable Salad"

In a bulletin to its members the Canners League of California calls attention to the rule governing the labels for vegetable salad. The Department of Agriculture, it is stated, has expressed its opinion that the same ruling should apply to the vegetable mixtures as to fruit mixtures, that is, they should be labeled, for instance, "vegetables for salad".

Slack-Filling Bill

The slack-filling bill before the last Congress has been introduced in the House by Representative Haugen as H. R. 4762. The bill is now in the hands of the Committee on Agriculture.

Agricultural Department's Final Estimates on 1925 Canning Crops

Final estimates for 1925 have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture on sweet corn, green peas, tomatoes and snap beans for manufacture, asparagus and spinach for canning, cabbage for kraut, and cucumbers for pickles. For each of these are shown the acreage, yield per acre, production, price per ton and total value. The following summary table gives the figures for the country as a whole, also the 1924 statistics as revised by the Bureau:

	Corn	*Peas*	*Tomatoes*	*Snap Beans*
Acreage:				
1924 .....acres	302,790	226,590	282,000	25,030
1925 .....acres	370,380	231,830	326,000	30,980
Yield per acre:				
1924 .....tons	1.7	1.1	3.8	1.8
1925 .....tons	2.5	.9	5.0	2.1
Production:				
1924 .....tons	527,800	244,000	1,081,500	44,300
1925 .....tons	927,200	214,400	1,637,700	66,000
Price per ton:				
1924	$14.17	$59.40	$15.28	$66.03
1925	$14.98	$59.01	$14.49	$64.68
Total value:				
1924	$7,478,000	$14,493,000	$16,523,000	$2,925,000
1925	$13,891,000	$12,652,000	$23,726,000	$4,269,000

	Asparagus	*Spinach*	*Cabbage*	*Cucumbers*
Acreage:				
1924 .....acres	23,330	9,750	11,210	85,410
1925 .....acres	26,530	11,190	8,690	99,230
Yield per acre:				
1924 .....tons	2.1	4.7	10.8	30
1925 .....tons	1.8	3.0	10.3	68
Production:				
1924 .....tons	48,900	46,100	121,200	2,549
1925 .....tons	47,600	33,600	89,800	6,746
Price per ton:				
1924	$99.16	$20.72	$7.08	$1.14
1925	$79.73	$20.27	$7.35	$1.04
Total value:				
1924	$4,849,000	$955,000	$858,000	$2,904,000
1925	$3,795,000	$681,000	$660,000	$6,893,000

The Bureau has also published statistics showing, for the years 1915-1925 inclusive, the average number of cases per ton of sweet corn and tomatoes in each of the principal states.

Queensland State Cannery Abandons Export Market

In a statement by the State Trade Department of Queensland, Australia, it is announced that the State Pineapple Cannery has for the present decided to abandon all idea of continuing on the export market and will confine itself to the Australian market. Arrangements have been made with an Australian firm for the disposal of the entire canned products from the winter and summer crops of pineapples, 1925-26. The accounts of the State cannery for the year ending June 30, 1925, show a net loss for the year of approximately $21,500.

Control of Raspberry Disease

A method which has given successful control of mosaic of red raspberries in Monroe County, New York, will be explained in connection with an exhibit at the meeting of the State Horticultural Society in Rochester in January. Planting stock of Cuthbert red raspberry may be obtained which is practically free from mosaic, it is stated. By the use of such stock in setting out new plantings and by careful inspection of the planting for the first two years and the removal of any diseased plants that may appear, the disease may be held in check for several years.

Seed Inspection and Certification for Export

Senator Norris and Representative Haugen have introduced in Congress as S. 1958 and H. R. 6241 respectively, identical bills authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to inspect and certify as free from disease and insect pests, fresh fruit, vegetables, seeds and nursery stock and other plants for propagation where offered for export.

Bulletin of Interest to Vegetable Growers

"Better Seed for Commercial Vegetable Growers" is the title of a 22-page illustrated bulletin published by the State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, New York, as Extension Bulletin 122. The bulletin covers such subjects as characteristics of good seed, classification of vegetables, the seed business, buying seed and growing seed. It contains also reference lists on vegetable seed and on varieties of vegetables.

Condition of Wholesale Trade

Wholesale trade in all leading lines declined in November from the seasonal peak reached in October, but the total volume

of trade continued larger than a year ago. For the eleven months ending in November, the volume of trade in the six leading lines included in the Federal Reserve Board's index of wholesale trade was approximately 4 per cent larger than for the corresponding period in 1924. Sales in all lines were larger than in 1924, except groceries, which were in approximately the same volume, the greatest increase being in the sale of meats, due partly to the higher level of prices prevailing this year than in 1924.

Declines in aggregate sales in November from the seasonally high levels in October, when retailers purchased in large volume to build up stocks for the Christmas trading season, were about of the same extent as in other recent years. Declines in the sales of dry goods, shoes, hardware, and drugs were larger than last year, while declines in sales of groceries and meats were less.

Argentine Packing and Labeling Regulations Postponed

The enforcement of the Argentine decree imposing certain requirements in regard to the labeling and packing of foodstuffs has been deferred from January 30 to March 30, 1926, according to a cable from Commercial Attache E. F. Feeley, Buenos Aires, received by the Department of Commerce.

Canned Food Exports in November

Exports of canned foods in November, as compared with the same month last year, showed increases in vegetables, fruits, and sardines, and decreases in meats, milk and salmon. The figures for November, 1924 and 1925, follow:

	1924 *Pounds*	*1925* *Pounds*
Canned meats	1,103,108	778,689
Canned vegetables, total	4,542,954	6,590,475
Canned fruits, total	28,939,175	32,626,216
Apricots	2,863,072	2,463,960
Peaches	7,217,661	12,713,799
Pears	8,716,096	7,970,789
Pineapple	2,838,574	3,054,775
Canned milk	15,334,509	7,970,325
Canned salmon	6,746,713	5,456,769
Canned sardines	4,618,887	7,884,258

The Utah Canners Association will hold its annual convention at the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City on Friday and Saturday, January 15 and 16.

New Freight Ratings Proposed in Official Classification Territory

Consolidated Classification Committee Docket No. 25, issued December 12, proposes a large number of changes in the ratings on canned foods, L. C. L., in Official Classification Territory. In addition, the docket proposes to advance the minimum weight on empty tin cans in all sections including Official, Southern and Western Territory, from 14,000 to 16,000 pounds per 36-foot car, subject to Rule 34, which means that the minimum is proportionately increased when larger cars are used.

The proposals in Docket 25 have been assigned for hearing before the Classification Committee at New York, January 12; Chicago, January 19; and Atlanta, January 27.

Changes proposed in the Docket affect the following items:

	Present Rating	*Proposed Rating*
Clam Juice, in glass	1	2
Clam Juice, in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Cocoa, in glass	1	2
Cocoa, in tin, crated	2	R-25
Cocoanut, prepared, desiccated, in glass	1	2
Cocoanut, prepared, desiccated, in tin, crated	2	R-25
Cocoanut, other than desiccated in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Fish-balls, in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Meats, in tin, crated	3	R-25
Meats, in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Mustard, in glass	2	1
Pectin, fruit or vegetable, in tin, boxed	3	2
Pimientos, in tin, boxed	3	2
Fruit, candied, crystallized, etc., in pails	2	1
Fruit, candied, crystallized, etc., in tin or cartons, boxed	R-25	2
Vegetables, canned, in glass	1	2
Vegetables, canned, in tin, crated	3	R-25
Vegetables, canned, in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Soups, in glass	1	2
Soups, in tin, crated	3	R-25
Soups, in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Macaroni, Spaghetti and Vermicelli, in tin, crated	3	R-25
Macaroni, Spaghetti and Vermicelli, in tin, boxed	R-26	3
Sauerkraut, in tin, boxed	R-26	3

The Oregon Agricultural School has announced that its fifth annual canners' short course at Corvallis will be given from February 1 to 19, 1926.